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School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast



Data Structure Report: No. 24.

Monitoring at Haughey's Fort, Co. Armagh
AE/04/57

On behalf of



ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE

**Data Structure Report: Haughey's Fort, County Armagh
2004-05-13**

Licence No. AE/04/57

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CAF DSR 024

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1 Summary

1 Background

1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring of the digging of two gateposts at Haughey's Fort, County Armagh, took place on the 31st March 2004. The monitoring was undertaken by Nicholas Beer of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast (Licence No. AE/04/57). The monitoring was conducted on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage who funded the work.

1.1.2 The site at Haughey's Fort is defined by three large concentric ditches enclosing a central hilltop area. The central area demonstrates a collection of pits in various arcs and formations. Excavations at Haughey's Fort were conducted by Professor Jim Mallory (School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast) between 1987 and 1995. The information recovered from these excavations and the archaeological importance of the site and its surrounding landscape necessitated the need for a monitoring exercise during the erection of the two gateposts.

1.2 Monitoring

1.2.1 Staff of the Environment and Heritage Service: Regional Operations requested that monitoring by a licensed archaeologist took place during the excavation of the two gateposts. The gateposts were located in a slight hollow approximately two metres to the north east of the inner enclosure ditch (see Figure 2). The principal objective of the monitoring was to ascertain the character and date of any deposits disturbed during the installation of the gateposts.

1.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were both excavated by hand using spade and hand shovel. The stratigraphic sequences and contexts were similar in both trenches although Trench 2 contained a more complicated sequence than Trench 1. Both trenches contained a plough soil upper layer (Context Nos. 101 and 201), which in Trench 1 overlay the subsoil (Context No. 102). In Trench 2 a gravel layer (Context No. 203) was found below the plough soil, and overlay a stoney layer (Context No. 204). Below this stoney layer was a charcoal spread (Context No. 205) and the subsoil layer (Context No. 202).

1.3 *Discussion*

- 1.3.1 Despite being of small scale, a tentative interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence exposed in Trench 2 is possible. The layer of gravel and loosely packed stones (Context Nos. 203 and 204) represent a relatively recent and deliberate deposit, presumably intended to form a stable ground surface. This area of the field has been used to provide access for heavy machinery between the adjoining fields. The localised hollow has probably had a 'hard course' laid in an attempt to stabilise the ground surface.

1.4 *Recommendations*

- 1.4.1 Despite the importance of Haughey's Fort, the sequence of deposits disturbed during the installation of the gateposts is not of any archaeological value or interest. Consequently, it is recommended that publication of the results of the monitoring is not merited, beyond the submission of a concise summary to *Excavations 2004*. No additional post-excavation research or other resources will be necessary to produce the summary report.

2 Introduction

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of the installation of two gateposts and a gate at the Bronze Age site of Haughey's Fort, County Armagh (SMR No. ARM 012:013). The monitoring was undertaken on the 31st March 2004 by Nicholas Beer for the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast (Licence No. AE/04/57). The work was carried out on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage who funded the work.

2.2 Background

2.2.1 Haughey's Fort (SMR No. ARM 012:013) is situated on a hilltop (approximately 100 metres above sea level) in Tray townland, and it is located approximately one kilometre west of Navan Fort, and to the west of the city of Armagh (see Figure 1). The fort is situated 200 metres to the west of the King's Stables (SMR No. ARM: 012:014).

2.2.2 Haughey's Fort consists of two concentric outer ditches with a diameter of 350 metres (Lynn 2003,67). A larger inner ditch encloses an area of approximately 150m in diameter and, contained within this area, excavations identified that there were a number of concentric arcs of various sized pits (ibid.).

2.2.3 Excavations at Haughey's Fort were conducted by Professor Jim Mallory (School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast) between 1987 and 1995. Excavation trenches were located within the centre of the enclosure and across the inner and outer ditches (see Figure 2). A section of the ditch was excavated at the south-east portion of the inner enclosure. At the base of the ditch a large amount of seeds, pottery, bone, wood and insect remains were recovered (Mallory et al. 1996). These excavations identified that this was a Late Bronze Age hillfort.

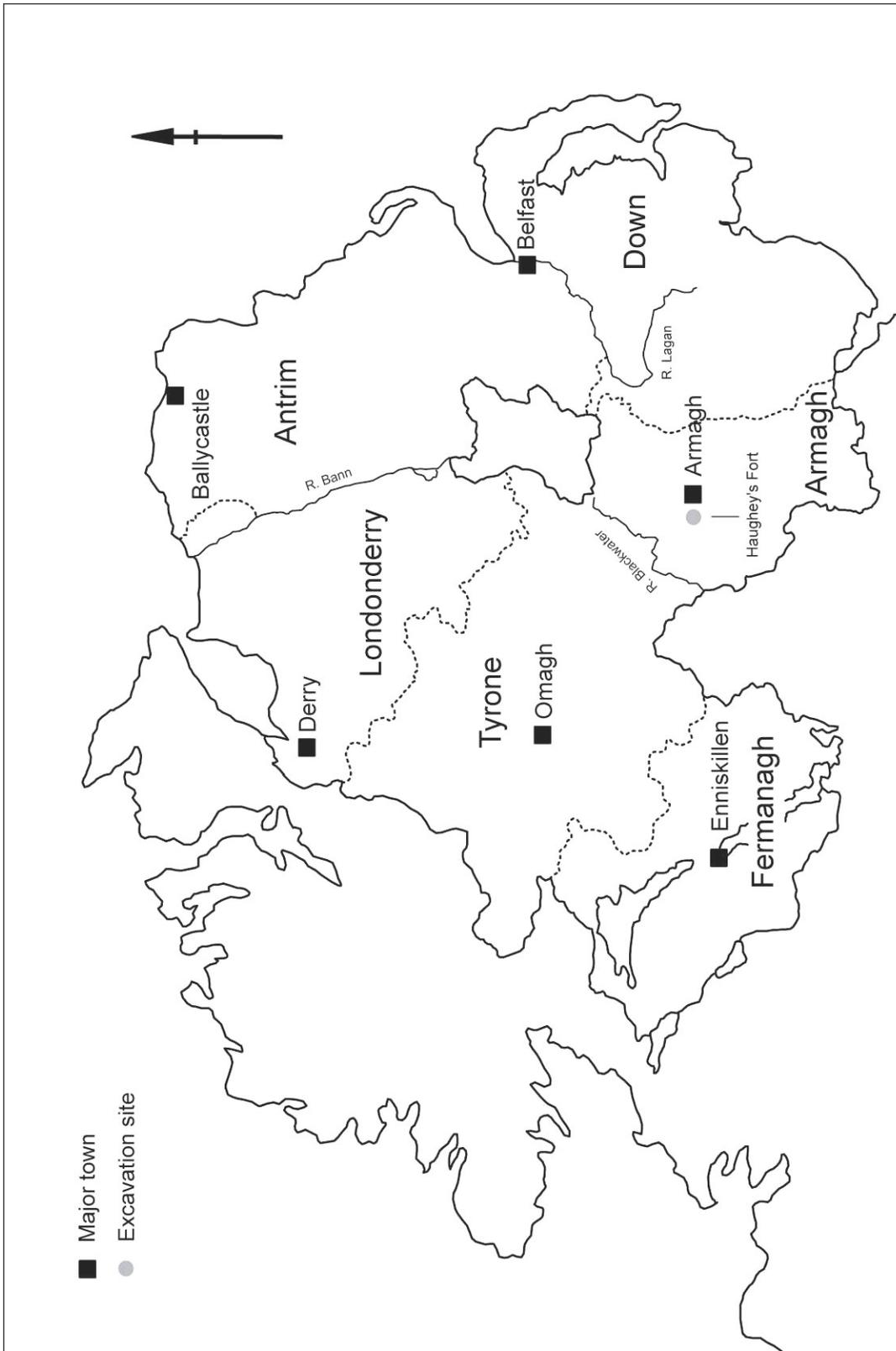


Figure One: Site location map.

2.3 Archaeological survey of the site's environs

2.3.1 Haughey's Fort is located within the Navan Complex and is surrounded by a variety of archaeological sites. Details of the sites within the local region have been tabulated and included in Table 1.

SMR No.	Townland	Description	Grid Reference
ARM 008:010	Annaclarey	Enclosure: Annaclarey Fort	H: 8364 5111
ARM 008:026	Annamoy	Enclosure: Tree Ring?	H: 8338 4999
ARM 008:037	Tullykevan	A.P. site: Circular Cropmark	H: 8450 5294
ARM 008:045	Ballytroddan	A.P. site: Oval Enclosure	H: 8394 4970
ARM 008:049	Mullyleggan	A.P. site: Oval Cropmark	H: 8465 5119
ARM 011:017	Lisdown	Rath	H: 8251 4640
ARM 012:013	Tray	Large Multivallate Hilltop Enclosure: Haughey's Fort	H: 8351 4529
ARM 012:014	Tray	Earthwork - Ritual Pool: The King's Stables	H: 8387 4546
ARM 012:015	Navan	Large Circular Enclosure, Mound Etc: Navan Fort; Emhain Mhacha; Emania; An Eamhain	H: 847 452
ARM 012:019	Lisdrummard	Rath	H: 8271 4416
ARM 012:020	Ballycoffey or Ballyhoy	Enclosure	H: 8346 4283
ARM 012:072	Navan	Burial	H: 8484 3700
ARM 012:076	Ballytarran	Enclosure (unlocated)	H: 84 43
ARM 012:084	Tirgarriff	Mound	H: 8437 4555
ARM 012:088	Ballyrea	Prehistoric Occupation Site, Early Christian Ditch and Burial	H: 8442 4469
ARM 012:094	Tray	A.P. site: Cropmarks of six ring ditches	H: 838 458
ARM 016:011	Lisdrumbrughas	Rath, Rough Fort	H: 8324 4064
ARM 016:018	Ballynagolan	Enclosure	H: 8424 4028
ARM 016:019	Lislea	Rath	H: 8465 4028
ARM 016:029	Farnaloy	Rath	H: 8313 3823
ARM 016:037	Killyreavy	Enclosure	H: 8484 3700
ARM 016:038	Killyreavy	Rath	H: 8463 3654

ARM 016:044	Kilcreevy Etra	Enclosure	H: 8302 3887
ARM 016:057	Drunhirik	Rath	H: 8447 3812
ARM 016:071	Kilcreevy Etra	Enclosure: McNally's Fort (unlocated)	H: 83 46
ARM 016:072	Mowillin	Enclosure: Mcquade's Fort (unlocated)	H: 83 37

Table 1: Known archaeological sites within the vicinity of Haughey's Fort.

2.4 Reason for excavation and objectives

2.4.1 Given the archaeological importance of Haughey's Fort, staff of the Environment and Heritage Service: Regional Operations requested that monitoring by a licensed archaeologist take place during the excavation of the two gateposts. The principal objective of the monitoring was to ascertain the character and date of any deposits disturbed during the installation of the gateposts.

2.4.2 A copy of this report has been deposited with the Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage. All site records are temporarily archived with the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

2.5.1 The monitoring was undertaken by Nicholas Beer, assisted by Peter Moore (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast). For their assistance during the course of the monitoring and the preparation of this report, the author is grateful to: John Davidson (Queen's University Belfast), Dr. Colm Donnelly (Queen's University Belfast), Dr. Philip Macdonald (Queen's University Belfast), Declan Hurl (Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage) and Michael Morgan (Environment and Heritage Service: Regional Operations). The illustrations were prepared by Ruth Logue of the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

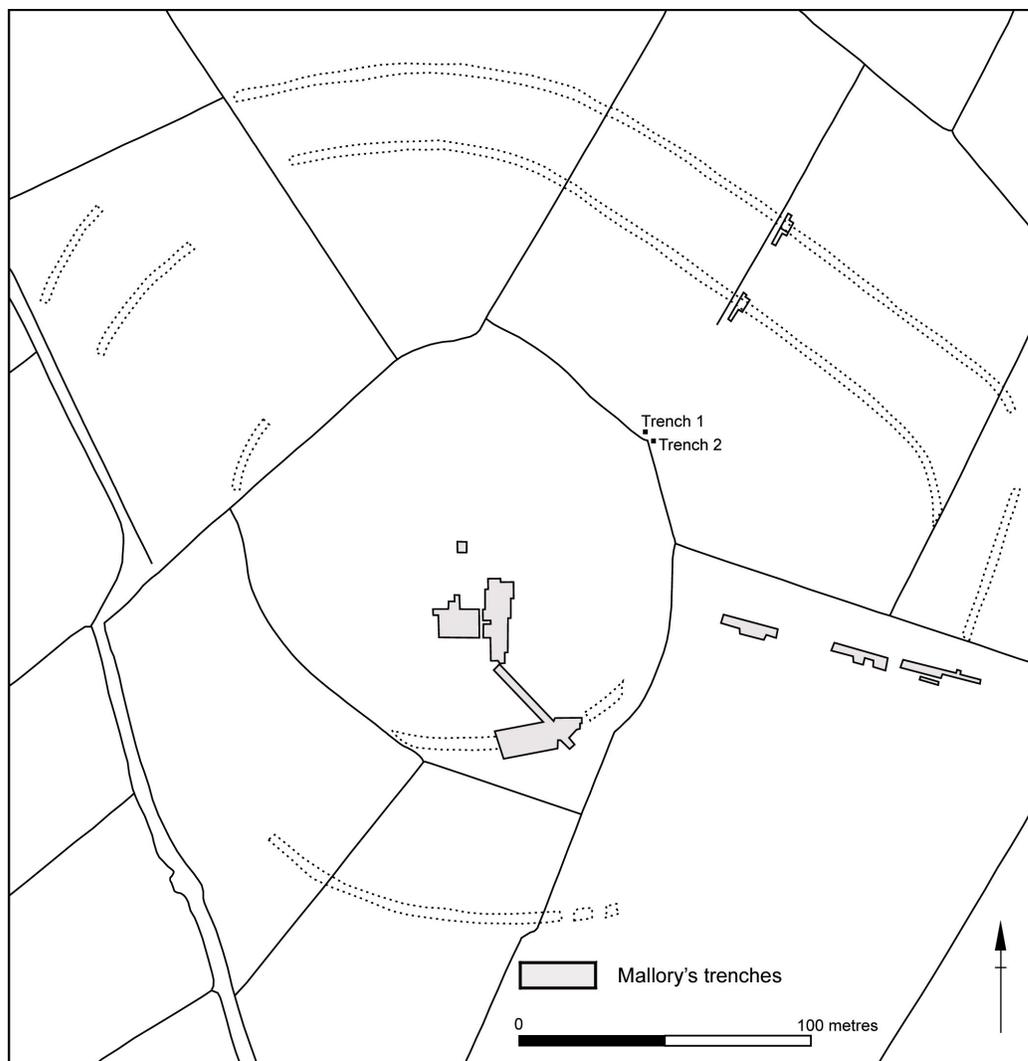


Figure 2: General plan of Haughey's Fort showing the location of the hillfort's ditches (as revealed through aerial survey), the position of Mallory's trenches (1987 to 1995), and the location of the postholes excavated during the current programme of work (Trench 1 and Trench 2).

Excavation

2.6 Methodology

2.6.1 The installation of a new gate required the excavation of two small sub-rectangular pits, labelled Trenches 1 and 2 in Figure 2. These two holes formed the housings for securely concreting the gateposts into the ground (see Table 2 for the dimensions of the holes).

2.6.2 The excavation was jointly undertaken with the contractor employed to erect the gate and fence. A single plan (scale 1:10, see Appendix Four) was prepared of Trench 2 during the excavation and a total of 12 digital images were taken during and after the excavation (see Appendix Three). No small finds or bulk finds (see Appendix Five) were recovered and only a single sample was taken (see Appendix Six). Although the excavation was small in scale, context sheets were used to record the deposits in full detail. The unique site code used to identify the records generated during this excavation is HF 04. It is intended that the Harris Matrix for the site (see Appendix Two) is referred to whilst reading the account of the stratigraphic sequence of the excavation.

Trench No.	Length (north-south)	Width (east-west)	Depth
1	0.48 metres	0.30 metres	0.49 metres
2	0.52 metres	0.34 metres	0.60 metres

Table 2: Dimensions of excavated trenches.

2.7 Account of the excavations

2.7.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were both excavated by hand, using spade and hand shovel. The stratigraphic sequences and contexts were similar, although Trench 2 contained a more complicated sequence than Trench 1. Both trenches contained a plough soil upper layer (Context Nos. 101 and 201), which in Trench 1 overlay the subsoil (Context No. 102). In Trench 2 a gravel layer (Context No. 203) was found below the plough soil and overlay a stoney layer (Context No. 204). Below this stoney layer was a charcoal spread (Context No. 205) and a subsoil layer (Context No. 202).

2.7.2 Trench 1 was a sub-rectangular hole located on the east side of Haughey's Fort's inner ditch. It measured 0.48 metres in length (north to south) and 0.30 metres in width (east to west) and was excavated to a depth of 0.49 metres. Trench 1 contained a simple

stratigraphic sequence consisting of two contexts. The plough soil (Context No. 101) overlay the subsoil (Context No. 102) at a depth of 0.25 metres.

2.7.3 Trench 2 was a sub-rectangular hole located three metres to the south of Trench 1. It measured 0.52 metres in length (north to south) and 0.34 metres in width (east to west). The plough soil layer (Context No. 201) overlay a loose gravel deposit (Context No. 203) approximately 0.08 metres thick. Below this loose gravel deposit was a layer of large stones, loosely packed together (Context No. 204) and with some mortar attached. The stones were no larger than 0.1 m x 0.15 m in size. In total, eight large stones were removed, but no structural alignment was apparent and no cut was located. Below this layer of stones was a small spread of charcoal (Context No. 204) measuring 0.1 m in length (north to south), 0.08 m in width (east to west) and 0.03 m in depth. A sample of this charcoal was recovered (see Appendix Six). Below the charcoal spread was the subsoil deposit (Context No. 202), which was analogous to the subsoil deposit in Trench 1 (Context No. 102). The final depth of Trench 2 was deeper than that of Trench 1 at 0.6 m and 0.49 m respectively. This was because Trench 2 would house the gatepost from which the gate hinges were to be hung and as such required a slightly deeper foundation.

2.8 *Artefactual Assemblage*

2.8.1 Neither Trench 1 nor Trench 2 yielded any artefacts of archaeological significance.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Despite the small scale nature of the investigations, a tentative interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence exposed in Trench 2 is possible. The layer of gravel and loosely packed stones (Context Nos. 203 and 204) represent a relatively recent and deliberate deposit, presumably intended to form a stable ground surface. This area of the field has been used to provide access for heavy machinery between the adjoining fields. The localised hollow has probably had a 'hard course' laid in an attempt to stabilise the ground surface. The stones appeared to be loosely packed and not in any apparent structural alignment. It is therefore suggested that these deposits are not of archaeological significance but reflect the levelling and stabilising of a small area of the field prone to waterlogging and being churned up by agricultural machinery. The charcoal spread (Context No. 205) was a localised deposit, which consisted of the remains of a carbonised root approximately 40 mm in diameter.
- 4.2 Despite the archaeological importance of this Bronze Age hillfort no significant archaeological deposits or features were disturbed during the installation of the gateposts.

5 Recommendations for further work

- 5.1 Despite the importance of Haughey's Fort, the sequence of deposits disturbed during the installation of the gateposts is not of any archaeological value or interest. Consequently, it is recommended that publication of the results of the monitoring is not merited, beyond the submission of a concise summary to *Excavations 2004*. No additional post-excavation research or other resources will be necessary to produce the summary report.

Bibliography

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Mallory, J. P., Moore, D. G., and Canning, L. J., 1996: "Excavations at Haughey's Fort 1991 and 1995," *Emania* **14**, 5-21.

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Appendix One: Context List

Context No.	Description
<i>Trench 1</i>	
101	Dark brown plough soil
102	Orange brown sandy loam - subsoil
<i>Trench 2</i>	
201	Dark brown plough soil
202	Orange brown sandy loam - subsoil
203	Yellow gravel deposit
204	Deposit of loosely packed stones with mortar
205	Charcoal spread

Appendix Two: Harris Matrix

Trench No.

Description

Trench 1

101

Dark brown plough soil

102

Orange brown sandy loam - subsoil

Trench 2

201

Dark brown plough soil

203

Yellow gravel deposit

204

Deposit of loosely packed stones with mortar

205

Charcoal spread

202

Orange brown sandy loam - subsoil

Appendix Three: Photographic Record.

Digital images

31st March 2004

1. Trench 1 from south
2. Trench 1 from south, image b
3. Trench 1 from south, image c
4. Trench 1 from south, image d
5. Trench 1 from west
6. Trench 2 from west
7. Trench 2 from west, image 2
8. Trench 2 from south
9. Trench 2 C. 204, from south
10. Trench 2 C. 204, from south, image 2
11. Trench 2 C. 204, from south, image 3
12. Navan Fort, viewed from Haughey's Fort

Appendix Four: Field Drawing Register

<i>Drawing No.</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	1:10	Plan	Plan of Context 204, Trench 2, after removal of Context 203

Appendix Five: Small Finds Register

No small finds were recovered during this excavation.

Appendix Six: Samples Register

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	205	Charcoal sample